

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

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UNITY PROGRAMME

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Main Point: No Wehrmacht

The programme which should be followed to achieve German unity, and to prevent the growth of a militarist state in West Germany was outlined in Berlin on November 19th by Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic.

The programme was presented to the new People's Chamber elected in the General Election held in East Germany on October 17th. Main points of the programme were:

1. Cancellation of the Paris Agreements establishing a new West German Wehrmacht, and renunciation by both German states of inclusion in any aggressive military grouping of states.
2. The preparation and holding of general, secret, direct, free all-German elections. The elections should be prepared in consultation between East and West Germany, and neither the East German nor the West German electoral law need be taken as basis for these elections.
3. Discussions between representatives of both parts of Germany on normalisation of the situation, and on steps to be taken to bring the two halves nearer together in the economic, social and cultural fields.
4. Four-power agreement on the immediate and simultaneous withdrawal of the occupation troops from Germany.

5. Participation in an All-Europe Conference on Collective Security.

6. Resumption of four-power negotiations on German reunification.

7. Drafting of a peace treaty for Germany, with equal voice in the negotiations for representatives of both parts of Germany, or of an All-German Government.

In his government statement Prime Minister Grotewohl suggested that all Germans in east and west should vote in a plebiscite to show whether they favoured the Paris agreement and West German inclusion in the Atlantic Pact system, or the conclusion of a peace treaty in the framework of an overall European security system.

Prime Minister Grotewohl defined the attitude of the East

Did Adolf Win War?

"About 85% of the surviving middle-rank and high officials of the Nazi Party and the SS, insofar as they were government officials before 1933, or were placed in key posts by the brown dictatorship, today draw their full pensions. In most cases they have drawn very considerable amounts in lieu of back pensions.

"30% of these nazi pensioners receive monthly pensions of over 500 marks, 18% receive up to 1000 marks, and 1.8% receive even higher pensions.

"All the war criminals pardoned in recent months now have jobs. A number of them moved direct from their prison cells to leading positions in industry.

"When we turn to the victims of the nazi policy of persecution and

extermination, we find that nearly 25% of the survivors died before they received any compensation from the state. From the remaining 75% only about 60% have received one quarter of the sum due to them. Not a single case of 100% payment is known.

"About one quarter of the anti-Nazis who were adjudicators in denazification courts are permanently unemployed for political reasons. Others have been forced to accept jobs at rates of pay below the hunger line. There are five known cases in which chairmen of such denazification tribunals have committed suicide."

"Neuer Vorwaerts", West German official Social Democratic Party weekly, October 27th 1954

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(cont. from front page)

UNITY PROGRAMME

German Government to the Saar, the status of which has been affected by the Paris Agreement. The Prime Minister stated:

"We adopt the point of view that the Saar belongs to Germany. The Paris solution of the Saar problem is an unjustified de facto alienation of the Saar territory from Germany. France has of course economic interests in the Saar.

"It is possible to reach a peaceful and lasting understanding on the Saar problem between a united, democratic, peaceable Germany and France. This understanding would be based upon recognition of the fact that the Saar is an inalienable part of Germany, and that France's interests with regard to security and in the economic field must be taken into consideration."

West Berlin Authorities Hinder Free Elections

Dozens of election canvassers of the Socialist Unity Party have been arrested by West Berlin police for doing normal political propaganda in preparation for the municipal elections due in West Berlin on December 5th. The West Berlin police claim that such canvassing "endangers democratic liberties in West Berlin".

Election preparations of the Socialist Unity Party have also been hampered by the refusal to allow the use of most large halls in West Berlin, and by the fact that no Socialist Unity Party newspaper is allowed to circulate there. The openly fascist "German Party" on the other hand has been able to rent twice the Sport Palast, West Berlin's largest hall, for meetings at which speakers extended their "greetings to our brothers of the Waffen SS"

275 Daily Move East

An average of more than 275 Germans moved from West Germany to East Germany every day in October 1954, according to official statistics published in Berlin. The West-East flow across the border through Germany is now considerably higher than the flow in the opposite direction.

NOVEMBER CONFERENCE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY

The German Democratic Republic, along with almost all other European states, has been invited to attend the European Conference on Collective Security to be held in Moscow on November 29th.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic accepted the invitation, which was extended by the Soviet Union on November 13th.

The Soviet invitation stated in part:

"In West Germany an army is being raised which should reach a strength of between 500,000 and 520,000 in the near future... The German militarists do not attempt to conceal the fact that they regard the strength of the German army as laid down by the London and Paris agreements purely as the starting point for the raising of still larger military forces.

"The West German army will be under the leadership of the same German generals who headed the Hitlerite army in the Second World War, and who participated actively in fascist aggression and the establishment of the bloody Hitlerite 'New Order' in Europe.

"In the effort to solve the problem of the reunification of Germany the Soviet Government has proposed that the question of the immediate withdrawal of the occupation troops from East and West Germany should be proposed. At the same time it was proposed that the strength and the armament of the police forces in

both East and West Germany should be fixed. The Soviet Government remains of the opinion that these measures would contribute to a relaxation of tension in Europe...

"In order to overcome the situation that Europe is periodically the arena of bloody and devastating wars... it is necessary to establish a system of security in Europe, in which all European states participate regardless of their social and state order.

"In view of these facts, the Soviet Government believes that the time has come for a conference of all those European states which wish to participate... Each participating state will naturally have the possibility of bringing forward those questions which it feels to be necessary in connection with the problem being considered."

The Soviet Note proposed that the United States should be invited to the conference, and that the People's Republic of China should send observers.

Indian Dances

The first group of Indian dancers to perform in the German Democratic Republic has appeared with great success in Berlin, Potsdam and other cities. The dance group, led by Mrinalini Sarabhai from Ahmedabad, performed a series of classical Indian dances.

KARL BARTH WARNS

Europe cannot be united as long as Germany is partitioned, warned noted Swiss Protestant theologian Karl Barth in a speech in Wiesbaden on November 14th.

"Germany must be careful that it does not become an authoritarian state, in which the normal citizen has no duty except to march and obey" Karl Barth stated. "The rearmament of West Germany in the framework of a western military alliance under American leadership must necessarily be regarded as a threat by the east. It is an illusion to imagine that Europe can be united so long as Germany is partitioned.

"It is also an illusion to imagine that Communism can be overcome with tanks and atom-cannon. The decisive words uttered at the Evangelical Student Assembly at Heidel-

berg and the West German Trade Union Congress (resolutions against West German remilitarisation, ed.) must now be followed by decisive deeds."

* * *

Two hundred Evangelical clergy, members of the "Church Brotherhood", meeting in Leverkusen, West Germany at the beginning of November, passed a resolution protesting against the introduction of conscription in West Germany.

* * *

The Duesseldorf branch of the Printing and Paper Trade Union has unanimously agreed to refuse to print call-up notices for the new West German Wehrmacht, soldiers' pay-books, and other printed matter directly concerned with remilitarisation.

EAST & WEST CABINETS COMPARED

East German Ministers

Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister

Socialist Unity Party, aged 60, printer. In Weimar Republic was Social Democratic member of Reichstag. During Nazi regime was active in underground, and twice arrested. After 1945 headed re-formed Social Democratic Party in East Germany, and led movement for unification with Communist Party, which took place in April 1946.

Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister

Socialist Unity Party, aged 61, joiner. Active Socialist since 1908, and one of founders of German Communist Party in 1918. Communist member of Reichstag in Weimar Republic, and one of first organisers of underground after Hitler came to power. During war did front-line propaganda work at Stalingrad and elsewhere amongst Nazi soldiers. First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party.

Willi Stoph, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior

Socialist Unity Party, aged 40, bricklayer. Joined the Communist Youth Movement in 1928, fought actively against Hitler throughout the Nazi period.

Otto Nuschke, Deputy Prime Minister

Christian Democrat, aged 71, journalist. One of the leaders of the anti-Nazi "Democratic Party" in Weimar Republic, repeatedly arrested by Nazis during the Hitler period. Helped form the Christian Democratic Party, of which he is chairman, in 1945.

Heinrich Rau, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Machine Industry

Socialist Unity Party, aged 53, metal worker. Socialist since the age of 14, joined the Communist Party in 1919. Arrested by Gestapo in 1933, escaped to Czechoslovakia in 1935 and fought in International Brigade in Spain 1936-39. Held in French concentration camp 1939-42, then handed over to Nazis and held in Mauthausen Concentration Camp until end of war.

West German Ministers

Dr. Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Christian Democrat, aged 78. Close business and family connections with West German and US heavy industry. Was removed from his office as Lord Mayor of Cologne during Nazi period, but received his full pension.

Franz Bluecher, Deputy Chancellor and Minister for Economic Cooperation

Free Democrat, aged 58. Banker, in which position he worked profitably throughout the Nazi period. Militarist: "Every single one of us must give his full moral support to German soldierliness, which is nothing more nor less than a moral conception" (German Soldiers' Calendar, 1955, page 128).

Gerhard Schroeder, Minister of the Interior

Christian Democrat, aged 43, lawyer. Joined the SA, Nazi storm troops, in 1933, and was legal adviser to Hjalmar Schacht. Member of board of directors of several West German heavy industrial undertakings.

Fritz Neumayer, Minister of Justice

Free Democrat, aged 60, lawyer. Followed his profession in Berlin unhindered throughout Nazi period.

Fritz Schaefter, Minister of Finance

Christian Democrat, aged 66, government official. Wrote in the "Regensburger Anzeiger", May 4th 1933: "Adolf Hitler is the renovator of the Reich. We must awaken all forces and put them to work so that the Chancellor can accomplish his enormous tasks." Appointed Premier of Bavaria in May 1945 by Americans, but removed a few months later when official US report stated: "Schaeffer must be regarded as Nazi collaborator."

Professor Ludwig Erhard, Minister for Economics

Christian Democrat, aged 57, economist. Occupied prominent position as economic researcher during Hitler period.

(Continued on next page)

Government of German Democratic Republic

Complete List of Cabinet Appointed on November 19th 1954

Prime Minister: Otto Grotewohl, SED.
Deputy Prime Minister: Walter Ulbricht, SED.
D. P. M. and Minister of Interior: Willi Stoph, SED.
D. P. M.: Otto Nuschke, CDU.
D. P. M. and Minister for the Machine Industry: Heinrich Rau, SED.
D. P. M. and Minister of Finance: Hans Loch, LDP.
D. P. M. and Foreign Minister: Lothar Bolz, NDP.
D. P. M. and Minister of Agriculture: Paul Scholz, DBP.
Chairman of State Planning Commission: Bruno Leuschner, SED.
Minister for Heavy Industry: Fritz Selbmann, SED.
Minister for Light Industry: Wilhelm Feldmann, NDP.
Minister for the Food Industry: Kurt Westphal, SED.
Minister of Trade: Kurt Wach, SED.
Minister of Labour, Friedrich Macher, SED.
Minister of Health: Luitpold Steidle, CDU.
Minister of Transport: Erwin Kramer, SED.

Minister of Posts: Friedrich Burmeister, CDU.
Minister of Construction: Heinz Winkler, CDU.
Minister of Education: Fritz Lange, SED.
Minister of Culture: Johannes R. Becher, SED.
Minister of Justice: Hilde Benjamin, SED.
Minister for Foreign Trade: Not yet appointed.
President of the German Notenbank: Greta Kuckhoff, SED.
State Secretary for Coordination of Finance: Willi Rumpf, SED.
State Secretary for Agricultural Purchase: Hermann Streit, SED.
State Secretary for Universities: Dr. Gerhard Harig, SED.
State Secretary for Local Economy: Karl Kasten, SED.
Chairman of the State Sport Commission: Manfred Ewald, SED.
(SED = Socialist Unity Party; CDU = Christian Democratic Union; NDP = National Democratic Party; LDP = Liberal Democratic Party; DBP = Democratic Peasant Party)

(Continued from previous page)

East German Ministers**Hans Loeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance**

Liberal Democrat, aged 56, lawyer. Forced to emigrate from Germany during nazi period owing to nazi persecution. Helped found Liberal Democratic Party of which he is chairman, after end of war.

Lothar Bolz Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

National Democrat, aged 51, lawyer. During Weimar Republic defended Socialists and trade unionists in many political trials. Nazis banned his work as lawyer, and he emigrated to the Soviet Union, where he worked as journalist and teacher. Elected chairman of the National Democratic Party in 1948.

Paul Scholz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture

Democratic Peasant Party, aged 52, agricultural worker. Spent most of the nazi period in prison and concentration camp. Helped to found the Democratic Peasant Party after the war.

Bruno Leuschner, Chairman of the State Planning Commission

Socialist Unity Party, aged 44, worker. Held in nazi concentration camp from 1936-54. His father, Social Democratic Trade Union leader Wilhelm Leuschner was executed by nazis in 1944.

Fritz Selbmann, Minister for Heavy Industry

Socialist Unity Party, aged 55, miner. Member of the Communist Party since 1922, miners' leader during Weimar Republic. Spent entire nazi period in prison and concentration camp.

Wilhelm Feldmann, Minister for Light Industry

National Democrat, aged 44, lawyer. Conscribed into Wehrmacht and made prisoner on eastern front. Joined Free German Committee in prison camp, and took active part in anti-fascist fight.

Kurt Westphal, Minister for the Food Industry

Socialist Unity Party, aged 41, mechanic.

Kurt Wach, Minister for Trade

Socialist Unity Party, aged 48, shoemaker. Worked in the anti-nazi underground, and helped in rebuilding work immediately after the fall of Hitler.

Friedrich Macher, Minister of Labour

Socialist Unity Party, aged 32, telephone linesman.

Luitpold Steidle, Minister of Health

Christian Democrat, aged 56, farmer. Served as officer in the Wehrmacht, captured at Stalingrad, and joined the Free German movement in Soviet prison camp. Active participation in anti-fascist fight. Helped restore health services in East Germany after war.

West German Ministers**Heinrich Luebke, Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry**

Christian Democrat, aged 60, surveyor. Arrested for a short period at beginning of nazi period for his activity as parliamentary representative of Zentrum Party. Worked from 1937 to 1945 as official of nazi Berlin City Administration.

Anton Storch, Minister of Labour

Christian Democrat, aged 62, carpenter. Worked as organiser and official of Christian Trade Unions, during nazi period as fireman.

Dr. Viktor Emanuel Preusker, Minister for Housing

Free Democrat, aged 41, banker. Joined Hitler's black-uniformed SS in 1933 and became SS instructor in racial problems. Received special diploma from Dresdener Bank in 1939 for "freeing the German economy of the Jewish yoke".

Jakob Kaiser, Minister for All-German Affairs

Christian Democrat, aged 66, book-binder. Former official of Christian Trade Unions. Calls for Greater Germany: "A real Europe can only be formed when German unity has been restored. This includes, I must remind you, not only Germany but also Austria, part of Switzerland, the Saar and Alsace-Lorraine." (Neue Zuercher Zeitung, January 26th 1952.)

Dr. Hans Christoph Seeböhm, Minister of Transport

German Party, aged 51, company director. Made large profits from Hitler's rearmament programme as director of mines in Silesia. Called in 1952 for "return" to Germany of large parts of Poland, Czechoslovakia and France.

Dr. Franz Wuermeling, Minister for Family Questions

Christian Democrat, aged 54, lawyer. Worked as civil servant until 1936, and then in a leading position in an industrial concern in Cassel. Outspoken Roman Catholic who declared in May 1954: "As Catholic Christians we know that we are better people than the heathens who surround us."

Theodor Oberlaender, Minister for Expellees

All German Bloc (Refugee Party), aged 49, professor of agronomy. Joined nazi party in 1933 and rose to rank of major in the storm troops. In 1939 was appointed Reich Leader of the Federation of Germans in the East, attached to the staff of the Gauleiter of East Prussia. Continually agitates for campaign against the east: "To be victorious in the battle against Bolshevism the youth must be trained to return to the East." ("Der Allgaeuer", Kempten, May 5th 1953.)

Heinrich Hellwege, Minister for Bundesrat (Upper House) Affairs

German Party, aged 46, business man. Keen supporter of the Buchmanite "Moral Rearmament" movement, stated in a speech in Hamburg on January 18th 1953: "The Communists, the Social Democrats and the Trade Unions must be smashed."

East German Minister

Erwin Kramer, Minister of Transport

Socialist Unity Party, aged 52, civil engineer. Active in the working class movement during the Weimar Republic. Fought against fascism in Spain in the International Brigade.

Friedrich Burmeister, Minister of Posts

Christian Democrat, aged 66, postal official. Excluded from civil service by nazis. Helped organise the Christian Democratic Union in East Germany immediately after the war.

Heinz Winkler, Minister of Construction

Christian Democrat, aged 44, building engineer.

Fritz Lange, Minister of Education

Socialist Unity Party, aged 55, teacher. Active in the working class movement since 1919. Served five years hard labour during nazi period for anti-fascist work.

Johannes R. Becher, Minister of Culture

Socialist Unity Party, aged 63, writer. Joined the Communist Party in 1923. Forced to emigrate in 1933 by nazis, took a leading part in cultural fight against Hitler. Awarded Stalin Peace Prize in 1952.

Hilde Benjamin, Minister of Justice

Socialist Unity Party, aged 52, lawyer. Joined Communist Party in 1925. Barred from her profession by the nazis, she was active in the underground movement. Her husband was murdered in concentration camp in 1942.

West German Minister

Dr. Robert Tillmanns, Minister without Portfolio

Christian Democrat, aged 58, government official. During the nazi period served as private secretary to Friedrich Flick, nazi arms magnate who was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment for war crimes by a US court.

Waldemar Kraft, Minister without Portfolio

All German Bloc (Refugee Party), aged 56, farmer. Major of the black-uniformed SS, with membership number 347,148. Before the war was the leader of the extreme German nationalistic organisation of "Germanic Peasants in Poland" which helped prepare way for nazi invasion of Poland in 1939. Interned as a dangerous nazi from 1945-47 by British occupation authorities.

Dr. Hermann Schaefer, Minister without Portfolio

Free Democrat, aged 62, lawyer. Worked during the nazi period in Goering's "Four Year Plan" rearmament office.

Franz Josef Strauss, Minister without Portfolio

Christian Democrat, aged 39, government official. Served as Wehrmacht officer in France, Italy and Soviet Union. Declared on June 29th 1952: "The Prussian officer is the ideal type of German."

Dr. Siegfried Balke, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs

Non-party business man. Company director, Chairman of the Association of Bavarian Chemical Industry.

WEST GERMANS FIGHT BACK

Citizens in all parts of West Germany continue their campaign against the American mining of bridges which it is intended to blow up in case of war.

At the beginning of November the city council of Bamberg, American Zone, unanimously decided to use the city police to guard the main bridges in the town against all mining attempts. The newspaper "Fraenkischer Tag" commented on November 4th: "The Bavarian Government and the Americans must be made to realise that we mean this step very seriously. We intend to do everything we can to stop demolition chambers being built into our bridges."

At Hanover, in the British Zone, public opposition to the construction of demolition chambers has been so great that the British military authorities had to abandon attempts to mine the Grasdorf bridge on October 23rd. "Building firms in

Hanover have refused to carry out this work, which exceeds in its extent the nazi frenzy for blowing things up" the Social Democratic "Hannoversche Presse" stated.

In Wuerzburg, American Zone, the town council unanimously protested against the bridge-mining measures being taken by the Americans.

In Wetzlar, American Zone, citizens working under cover of darkness destroyed the scaffolding and the tools being used to mine a 700-year-old bridge over the river Lahn.

Resistance to bridge-mining is particularly great in all circles in West Germany, since during the closing months of the Second World War hundreds of bridges were destroyed by the SS and the Wehrmacht and the communities concerned suffered the effects for years. Many of the bridges now being mined by the military occupation authorities have only just been repaired following their war-time damage.

"Home Guard" for West Germany Demanded

Millions of West Germans should be called up to serve in a uniformed "Home Guard" to support the 500 000 soldiers of the new West German Wehrmacht, nazi tank General Hasso von Manteuffel demanded in an interview on November 10th.

General Manteuffel, who now represents the Free Democratic Party in the West German parliament, stated that the Home Guard should be raised by conscription and organised on a militia basis.

Worthy Widow?

SS Colonel Dr Harald Turner was nazi military administrator in Belgrade during the Second World War, and one of the men primarily responsible for the murder of 6000 Jews in the Belgrade ghetto. Thanks to his true service to the nazi cause, he rose to the high civil service grade of Regierungspraesident. He was executed in Belgrade in March 1947 for war crimes.

Frau Turner is now drawing full pension in West Germany as widow of a high-ranking civil servant.

THROUGH THE IRON CURTAIN IN A U.S. BUS

By Corporal X. Y., United States Army

Berlin is the only place in the world where an official US Army bus drives through the "iron curtain" regularly every Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday.

For on each of those days a bus belonging to the Special Services Section of the US Berlin Command, loaded full of GIs and US High Commission rubbernecks, starts out from the Berlin Command Shopping Center on Clay Allee and makes a four-hour tour of the city, including the East Sector.

When I was first posted to Berlin . . . months ago I made the trip, and I believed all that the guide, a quick-talking Fitzpatrick travelogue sort of German, had to say. But since then I have been looking round Berlin, including East Berlin, for myself, and found that a lot of his talk had been hogwash.

So last Saturday I decided to take the trip again, this time with a notebook to note down what the guide really said.

I called up military telephone 43 153 on Friday to make sure of a reservation, because the trip is always crowded. (People want to be able to tell the folks back home in Dogpatch all about it.)

First memorable remark by the bus guide, who addressed us all effusively as "Sir", came as the bus approached the border between the West and East sectors. We passed over the railway bridge, and the guide pointed out of the window and said: "Here you see the results of the Soviets taking over the railroad system in Berlin. The train tracks are deserted." I wanted to roar with laughter, but the other passengers just nodded wisely, as if where they came from all railroad tracks were crowded, even if a train had just pulled out.

Apart from the guide there was a military escort officer along in the bus, and as we approached the border he stood up and announced very grimly "Ladies and gentlemen, we are now nearing the Soviet Sector. While there, we ask you not to photograph, nor step too close to Russian military personnel or German guards. I must ask you most seriously to stay all together when we leave the bus." He did not explain, of course, that we were perfectly at liberty, under Four Power Agreement, to move anywhere we liked in East or West Berlin.

Then the guide chimed in again:

"Just ahead now you see the Communist border police. They are all conscripted. They get a letter telling them to join up, or else . . ." and his voice trailed off, and most of his hearers concluded that the non-joiners were carted away to Siberian salt-mines, or something. The fact that it is a perfectly ordinary voluntary police force was not mentioned, of course.

"And now here are some facts about the Soviet Sector we are just entering" said the guide. "All food, textiles, and shoes are rationed. You can only buy a pair of shoes every two-and-a-half to three years. The meat ration is ½ lb for a whole week and sometimes you don't even get that."

He practically sobbed as he threw that massive lump of misinformation at our heads. Textiles and shoes have not been rationed for many years now, the only foods still rationed are meat, fat and sugar, and official statistics show that every East German ate an average of 1¼ lbs of meat per week in 1953.

And that set the tone for the rest of the trip. Driving down the broad alley way of the Stalin Allee, he told us that the apartments in the new blocks on both sides were occupied "solely by members of the government and officials of the Communist Party". It would be too "dangerous" to get out and have a closer look, he said.

It would have been too dangerous certainly — too dangerous for him, for our trippers would have been able to ring any doorbell, and find out that the apartments are occupied by ordinary workers who have done particularly well in production. If the trippers had been let off the bus they would also have been able to see that the shop-windows were full of things, freely on sale, which the guide had said were unobtainable.

"The Stalin Allee is the showplace for visitors, but now we are going to see the misery behind it, that most people don't see" the guide then announced, as the bus swung out of the newly built street into the ruined area still lying to the south.

A year or two ago this may have been one of the high points of the tour, but it no longer goes over with the same bang. For today, even in this big area of devastation, big squads of clearance workers are on the job, badly damaged buildings

are being reconstructed, and new blocks are going up.

And that is one of the reasons why I shall not be surprised if I read in my "Stars and Stripes" soon that the Berlin Tours "Behind the Iron Curtain", organised by the Special Services Section, Berlin Command, have been suspended. All the thundering lies poured out by the guide could not conceal the fact that construction was going on, on a very big scale, in East Berlin; that the people we saw on the pavement looked pretty normal, without smoking bombs in their hands, long black whiskers, or knives between their teeth; and that life in fact was going its very normal course.

And as life gets better and better in East Berlin and the other parts of East Germany it is going to become more and more impossible to hide this truth from the suckers who take the ride in the rubberneck bus.

Incidentally when our authorities do cancel the trips, I am sure they will make a last propagandistic jab. They will blame the cancellation on the "reds".

714 ORGANISATIONS FOR NAZI SOLDIERS

There are now a total of at least 714 different military organisations, ranging from the veterans of the SS Death's Head Division to the "Wehrmacht Female Auxiliaries," in West Germany. The names and addresses of all these organisations are given in the 1955 German Soldiers' Calendar, published by the Schild Verlag, Munich 27.

The preface to this soldiers' calendar is written by Nazi Field Marshal von Leeb, who states: "We are appealing to a new and younger generation. We can only hope that this new young troop is activated by the same spirit as the soldiers of the two past world wars."

Joint East-West Bach Research

Musicians from East and West Germany have joined forces to issue a definitive edition of the works of the great composer Johann Sebastian Bach. The collected works will be published in East Germany by the "Deutsche Verlag fuer Musik", Leipzig, and in West Germany by the "Baerenreiter Verlag", Kassel.

WEST GERMAN MOVE TO BAN COMMUNISTS

The West German Communist Party was scheduled to go on trial before the West German Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe on November 23rd.

The case against the Communist Party is based upon charges filed in November 1951 by the West German Ministry of the Interior. The court has been asked to declare:

1. That the Communist Party is unconstitutional.
2. That the Communist Party and all affiliated organisations shall be dissolved.
3. All "substitute organisations" shall be prohibited.
4. The funds of the Communist Party shall be confiscated.

Here are the specific charges levied against the Communist Party (KPD), quoted from the official bill of indictment:

a) "Inner aggression of the Communist Party... The Communist Party represents Marxism-Leninism-Stalinism, which means the defeat of all human freedom and the destruction of personality in favour of an oligarchical state collective... This represents the limitation or removal of the free democratic basic order of the Federal territory, and endangers the existence of the German Federal Republic. The KPD is thus unconstitutional in accordance with Article 21 (2) of the Basic Law.

b) "The internal organisation of the KPD... documentary proof is brought that the KPD slanders all elements which do not belong to the proletariat: this is a principle implicitly opposed to free democracy and its parties... The fact that there is an iron discipline in the KPD and that the establishment of factions in the party is prohibited shows that the outward display of parliamentary democracy by the KPD is in fact unfree and undemocratic.

c) (The bill of indictment claims that the KPD aims to extend the system ruling in the German Democratic Republic to the whole of Germany and then states...) "Constitutional reality in the Soviet Zone of Occupation is glaringly different from the free democratic basic order in the German Federal Republic... Not a single constitutional principle is respected in the Soviet Occupation Zone."

Parallel to Reichstag Fire Trial

German political circles have pointed to the parallel between the present ban proceedings against the West German Communist Party, and the Reichstag Fire Trial, held at Leipzig in 1933 in which the nazis attempted to convict Communists of setting fire to the Reichstag in Berlin. Thanks to the historic defence put up by Bulgarian Communist leader Georgi Dimitroff, all the Communist accused had to be acquitted.

The Reichstag Fire Trial has been assessed as one of the main nazi attempts to get rid of the Communists, and ultimately of all opposition elements, in order to prepare the way for conscription to the great Hitlerite Army.

The twelve West German judges who will consider the banning of the Communist Party in West Germany have been reminded of the nazi precedent for the present trial. Frau Hedda Zinner, East German dramatist who has written a powerful play "The Devil's Circle", based on the original Reichstag Fire Trial, has

sent copies of her play to all the judges in the present trial, with a covering letter which stated in part:

"If you will take the trouble to read the play which I send you, the trial scenes of which are based on the shorthand report of the Reichstag Fire Trial, you will certainly note the astonishing parallels with the present case - parallels which should give you much food for thought as Germans, as jurists, and, I hope, as decent men.

"I am not appealing to your private feelings by reminding you of the sad fate of your colleague Buenger (judge in the Reichstag Fire Trial, ed.), who died as a broken man after that trial.

"I am appealing to your conscience as German jurists, and to your honour. History and our German people will pass judgement on your attitude and your actions in the coming political trial. They have already passed judgement upon Buenger and his colleagues."

d) "The tasks of the KPD in the framework of the plan of attack... the main emphasis in the agitation of the KPD, apart from the propaganda for German unity and in favour of the Oder-Neisse frontier as the frontier of peace is opposition to the 'remilitarisation of Germany'... This is used as the basis for attacks on the persons, institutions and measures which mark the policy of the Federal Republic... The Resolution of the KPD (document 15) claims that the German people have a 'natural right' to 'take into their own hands the establishment of German unity'... The KPD has thus made the present plans of attack of the so-called German Democratic Republic the basis of its policy."

e) "Actions of the KPD connected with the plan of attack... The most serious attack against the Federal Republic and free democratic basic order is the so-called plebiscite in West Germany" (The unofficial plebiscite, held in 1951, asked the ques-

tion "Are you opposed to remilitarisation, and in favour of a peace treaty with Germany?"). More than 10 million West Germans cast their votes against remilitarisation in this plebiscite, despite constant police interference, ed.).

The bill of indictment shows very clearly the reason for the attempt being made by the West German Government to suppress the Communist Party - the fact that the party has played a leading part in the opposition to the formation of a new West German Wehrmacht.

The Communist Party has appealed for support from all those who oppose a new nazi army. Messages of protest against the ban attempt can be sent to the president of the West German Constitutional Court at this address:

Dr. Wintrich
Bundesverfassungsgericht
Karlsruhe
West Germany.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Certain circles in the United States have been preparing for the past ten years for the rearmament of West Germany, although the open stage of preparations has only now been reached.

I know that a blunt statement like this will be received with scepticism by very many people, including many who are strongly opposed to the creation of a new West German Wehrmacht. "But ten years ago, in November 1944, the Americans were still fighting the Wehrmacht, and the end of the war was not yet in sight" they will say.

Early Steps

Yet even while the fight against the nazi Wehrmacht was still in progress, the first steps for renazification, which laid the groundwork for remilitarisation, were being taken. And I do not mean that these steps were being taken by some mysterious "back-room boys" in Washington or elsewhere, although that was being done too.

Anybody who thinks this statement is an exaggeration (and anyone else interested in the German problem) should take a look at the book "Seeds of Destruction" by Cedric Belfrage, just published in New York by Cameron & Kahn at the price of \$ 1.50.

The subtitle of the book is "The Truth About the U. S. Occupation of Germany" — perhaps a little too sweeping, for the book only tells about events in one small section of U. S. occupation policy in the first two years of occupation.

Same Officials

Cedric Belfrage, the author, was a member of the press section of the Psychological Warfare Division. In this capacity he moved into Germany behind the front line troops, charged with the task of finding reliable anti-fascists to run new democratic German newspapers.

He tells, in fictional form, the story of how their work was hampered at every turn by American military government officers who found it easiest and most pleasant to govern through the same nazi officials who had held office under Hitler. And this development started months before the end of the war, in Aachen which was occupied by American forces late in 1944.

Of course, amongst the officers and men of the American forces there were quite a lot of real anti-fascists, people who knew what they were fighting for, and fighting against. Belfrage was one of them, and despite all the obstacles he and his colleagues met they managed to found at least one good anti-nazi newspaper, the "Frankfurter Rundschau", run by a board of Social-Democrats, Communists, and Catholics.

But the honest men in the American occupation forces were soon purged, and by the summer of 1947 the anti-fascist Germans of the "Frankfurter Rundschau" had been purged too. One, Emil Carlebach, communist veteran of Buchenwald concentration camp, has spent a large part of the recent years in West German prisons on trumped-up charges arising from his newspaper work; another of the original board of the paper, Wilhelm Geest, Catholic resister to Hitler, is working as a journalist in Bonn, but subjected to constant persecution and sniping because he dares to write articles for East German newspapers.

Background

Cedric Belfrage's book is history today, but enthralling history, and it supplies the background for much that has happened in Germany in the past few years.

One of the most valuable aspects of "Seeds of Destruction" is that it was written in 1947. The author has resisted the temptation to re-write it, and it is presented just as it was written, long before even the most reactionary circles had dared to talk openly about forming a new Wehrmacht.

Incidentally, author Cedric Belfrage, who edits the progressive weekly "National Guardian" in New York, is at present under attack by the Senate Permanent Committee, and is in danger of being expelled from the United States as an "undesirable alien", for the very work which he describes in this extremely readable book.

I think that the book is a "must" for readers of GERMAN REPORT. You can order it from the publishers, Cameron and Kahn, 109 Greenwich Avenue, New York 14.

* * *

During the present election campaign in West Berlin the two largest

parties, the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats, are throwing a lot of mud at each other. In the course of the mud throwing some interesting facts have emerged about the nazi past of people employed in leading positions in the West Berlin radio station "Free Berlin", which is under the control of the West Berlin administration.

Mud

Social Democratic station director Otto Bach attempted to sack station editor Ludwig Eberlein, who stands close to the Christian Democratic fraction in the station. As grounds for dismissal he produced a copy of the nazi newspaper "Berliner Morgenpost" dated September 1940, in which Ludwig Eberlein had written a review of the nazi anti-semitic film "Jew Sues". One passage of this review read:

"This film shows with great immediacy the eternal danger of the Jewish race: it shows their drive, born of their rootlessness, to nest as parasites on other peoples, and there to create unrest and discontent..."

Herr Eberlein was suspended from duty, and the incriminating passage was gleefully quoted in the Social Democratic West Berlin newspaper "Telegraf".

The Christian Democrats soon struck back. The right-wing newspaper "Tagesspiegel", in an editorial on the Eberlein case, stated:

"When the editorial staff of the Tagesspiegel was being assembled in 1945, the American (control officers) excluded Otto Bach from the group of candidates, because of the activities of Bach in Paris as an economic journalist during the German occupation."

Eberlein's suspension was immediately reversed, and the two nazi journalists returned happily to their work, which consists in particular of praising the "liberties of the free western world" in broadcasts aimed at East Germany.

Lucky Editor

"It has been now several months that this paper was not published. I have enjoyed them fishing..."

Apollon Joseph Kolinski, editor of "Freedom and Equality", San Francisco USA.